

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration



# EXPLORE SCIENCE

**“Bringing the Stories of the Skies to Your Library”: A  
Webinar to Help Library Staff Facilitate Virtual STEAM  
Programs**

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## “Bringing the Stories of the Skies to Your Library”: A Webinar to Help Library Staff Facilitate Virtual STEAM Programs

- Presenters from the STAR Library Network (*STAR Net*) facilitated an interactive webinar, "[Bringing the Stories of the Skies to Your Library](#)," with Christine Shupla from the Lunar and Planetary Institute and Elizabeth Nicolai from the Anchorage Public Library in Alaska on April 9, 2020.
- The webinar highlighted NASA and NASA-related resources for libraries to help provide virtual STEAM programming for the 2020 summer reading theme, “Imagine Your Story.”
- Constellation stories from indigenous cultures from around the world were highlighted. Strategies and tips for conducting virtual programs (including night sky viewings) were discussed.
- **376** viewers attended the live webinar via Zoom with another **60** joining via YouTube Live. The recording has already been watched over **300** times.

### Post-webinar survey quotes:

- ***Fabulous support! Not only did you present fun ideas but getting input from everyone on how they were revamping was invaluable!!***
- ***Inspiring. Many great ideas for virtual programming. I may have to watch it again!***
- ***The ideas discussions presented were very inspiring. Just thinking about these possibilities helps. Hearing what others are doing also sparks ideas I can do in my area.***



**Above:** Brooks Mitchell (*STAR Net*) shows viewers how to make a constellation projector with supplies that they already have at home.

**Below:** Christine Shupla (LPI) discusses ways that library staff can still conduct virtual live sky presentations



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### Night Sky Viewing

#### Live Sky Presentations

- Invite your patrons to step outside and discuss what they see with you
- Start with easy-to-find objects (the Moon, Venus), then direct attention to nearby features
- Use a small telescope or binoculars to SAFELY project the Sun and share it during a videoconference
  - Do not put your hand, arm, or face in front of the eyepiece or in front of the finder scope
  - Use the shadow of the telescope to help point it towards the Sun


